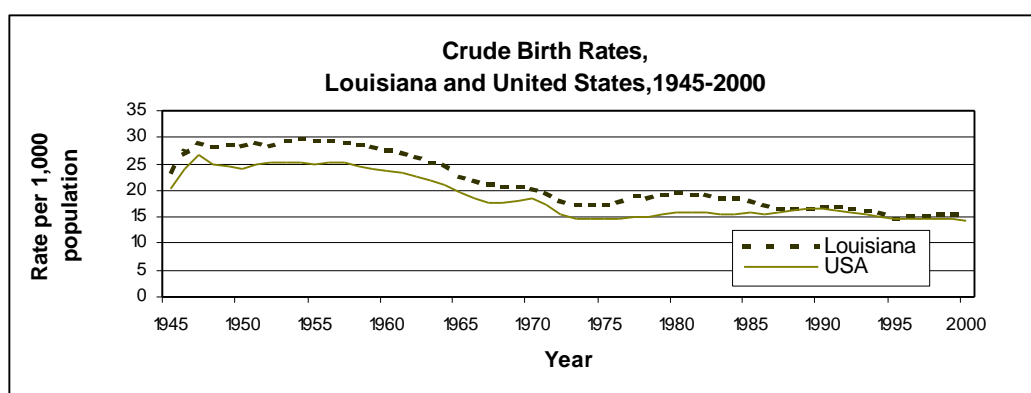




B. BIRTHS

Live Birth Counts and Birth Rates

In the year 2000, there were 67,843 births to Louisiana residents. This marked a slight increase from the number of Louisiana births in 1999 (up 1.2%), but was less than the increase seen at the national level in the number of births in 2000 versus 1999 (2.7%). Louisiana's 2000 crude birth rate was 15.2 live births per 1,000 population. Because the crude birth rate relates the number of live births to the total population in an area, without regard to the age or sex distribution of the population, it is useful as a measure of the contribution of births to the growth of the population of the area.¹ Louisiana's 2000 crude birth rate barely changed from 1999, and was higher than the 2000 national rate of 14.7 per 1,000 population.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 2000 data)

Crude birth rates are furnished to compare Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states. Louisiana continues to rank in the top third of the country in terms of birth rate. The state's 2000 ranking of 13th highest in the nation is only a couple of ranks lower than its 1999 ranking of 11. Among neighboring states, Louisiana's birth rate ranks in the middle.

Crude Birth Rates Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 2000		
State	Birth Rate*	National Ranking
Alabama	14.4	22
Arkansas	14.7	18
Louisiana	15.2	13
Mississippi	15.8	7
Texas	17.8	2
United States	14.7	-

*Rate per 1,000 population

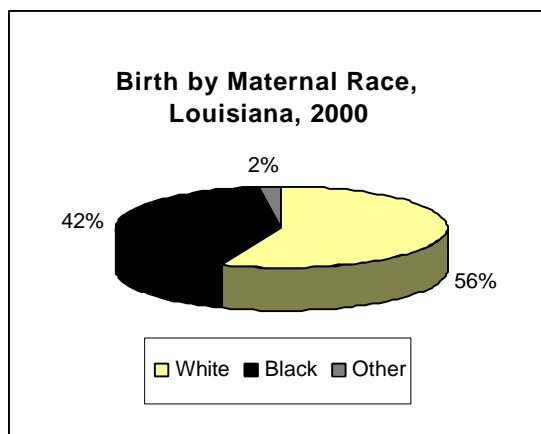
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Final Birth Data, 2000

¹ Clarke SC and Ventura SJ. *Birth and Fertility for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52), 1994.

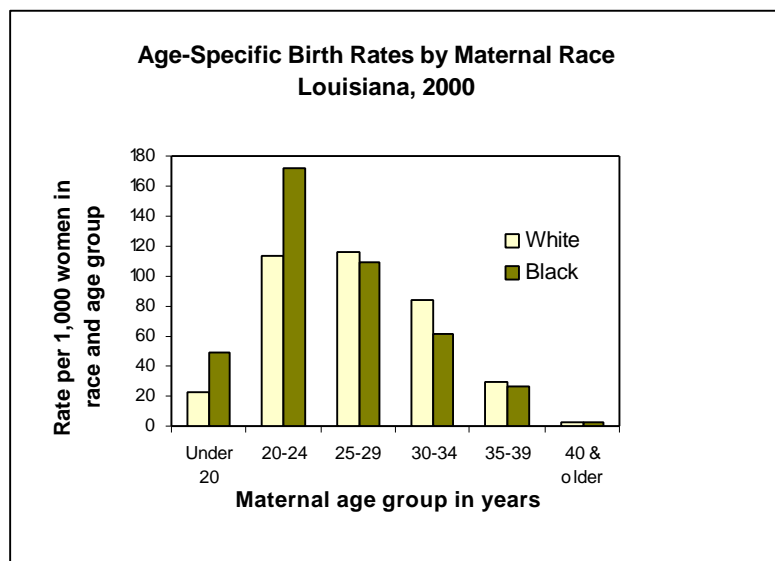


Although blacks represent only 32% of the population of Louisiana, 42% of the state's live births in the year 2000 were to black mothers. The birth rate for whites is 13.3 per 1,000 population while that of blacks is 19.5. Much of the disparity seems to occur in women under the age of 25. Although birth rates for both racial groups peak in the twenties, the birth rate for blacks is higher for mothers less than 25 years old than for whites of comparable age. After the age of 25, birth rates become more similar.

There is also disparity among parishes in terms of birth rate. In 2000 Vernon Parish had the highest rate at 19.2 births per 1,000 population. This was more than twice the rate of West Feliciana (8.5), the parish with the lowest birth rate.



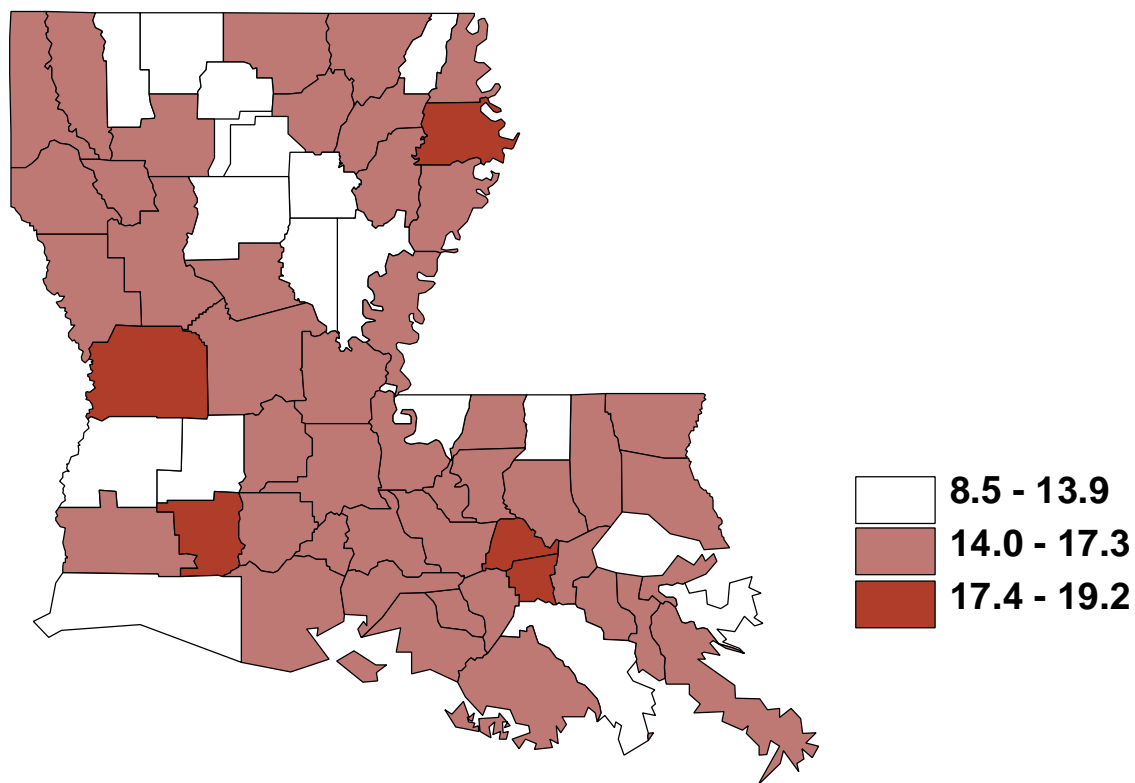
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Live Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population Louisiana, 2000



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2000													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT	15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 + Unk.
STATE	68273	67843	15.2	ALL	276	11255	21777	16786	11730	5049	918	34	18
	38467	37946		WHITE	44	4555	10692	10611	8108	3335	569	21	11
	28238	28335		BLACK	228	6544	10745	5728	3233	1529	310	11	7
	1568	1562		OTHER	*	156	340	447	389	185	39	*	-
ACADIA	530	945	16.1	ALL	*	184	348	215	131	51	12	*	-
	359	702		WHITE	*	109	257	175	112	38	8	*	-
	169	238		BLACK	*	75	89	40	18	11	*	-	-
	*	5		OTHER	-	-	*	-	*	*	-	-	-
ALLEN	*	327	12.9	ALL	*	61	132	83	36	10	*	-	-
	-	258		WHITE	-	44	99	70	32	10	*	-	-
	*	64		BLACK	*	16	31	13	*	-	*	-	-
	-	5		OTHER	-	*	*	-	*	-	-	-	-
ASCENSION	*	1336	17.4	ALL	*	157	365	400	288	109	12	-	*
	*	990		WHITE	-	88	231	313	246	100	10	-	*
	*	339		BLACK	*	69	131	86	41	7	*	-	-
	-	7		OTHER	-	-	*	*	*	*	-	-	-
ASSUMPTION	-	342	14.6	ALL	-	60	115	90	54	20	*	-	-
	-	188		WHITE	-	26	55	53	37	15	*	-	-
	-	152		BLACK	-	34	60	35	17	5	*	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
AVOYELLES	8	632	15.2	ALL	*	142	222	132	82	47	*	-	-
	*	393		WHITE	*	70	133	99	55	32	*	-	-
	6	227		BLACK	*	69	84	32	26	13	*	-	-
	-	12		OTHER	-	*	5	*	*	*	-	-	-
BEAUREGARD	499	459	13.9	ALL	*	79	166	130	57	20	*	-	-
	396	374		WHITE	-	53	138	111	52	16	*	-	-
	95	82		BLACK	*	26	27	17	5	*	-	-	-
	8	*		OTHER	-	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-
BIENVILLE	-	220	14.0	ALL	-	47	74	53	26	15	5	-	-
	-	107		WHITE	-	20	35	30	12	7	*	-	-
	-	111		BLACK	-	27	38	22	14	8	*	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-
BOSSIER	625	1529	15.6	ALL	*	211	490	443	260	103	18	-	-
	483	1087		WHITE	-	127	333	335	197	80	15	-	-
	131	410		BLACK	*	81	152	96	55	20	*	-	-
	11	32		OTHER	-	*	5	12	8	*	*	-	-
CADDO	6282	3839	15.2	ALL	20	701	1333	934	565	235	48	*	*
	3170	1608		WHITE	*	174	450	499	342	121	20	-	*
	3015	2177		BLACK	19	525	865	423	209	106	28	*	*
	97	54		OTHER	-	*	18	12	14	8	-	-	-
CALCASIEU	3354	2797	15.2	ALL	9	487	952	677	443	193	33	*	-
	2402	1901		WHITE	*	275	600	523	343	139	18	*	-
	922	870		BLACK	7	211	347	152	90	47	15	*	-
	30	26		OTHER	-	*	5	*	10	7	-	*	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2000														
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years									
					LT	15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
CALDWELL	-	143	13.5	ALL	-	25	59	33	20	6	-	-	-	-
	-	118		WHITE	-	16	51	27	19	5	-	-	-	-
	-	24		BLACK	-	9	8	5	*	*	-	-	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
CAMERON	-	119	11.9	ALL	-	27	36	27	14	14	*	-	-	-
	-	115		WHITE	-	26	34	27	14	13	*	-	-	-
	-	*		BLACK	-	*	*	-	-	*	-	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CATAHOULA	-	147	13.5	ALL	-	25	63	30	16	12	*	-	-	-
	-	92		WHITE	-	18	35	19	11	8	*	-	-	-
	-	54		BLACK	-	7	28	11	*	*	-	-	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
CLAIBORNE	75	172	10.2	ALL	-	31	63	40	23	10	*	-	-	*
	23	70		WHITE	-	9	28	14	11	5	*	-	-	*
	52	102		BLACK	-	22	35	26	12	5	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONCORDIA	297	287	14.2	ALL	*	74	118	52	24	15	*	-	-	-
	78	138		WHITE	-	26	54	34	14	8	*	-	-	-
	218	148		BLACK	*	48	64	18	9	7	-	-	-	-
	*	*		OTHER	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
DESOTO	*	414	16.2	ALL	-	80	166	83	60	21	*	-	-	*
	-	199		WHITE	-	28	81	46	34	9	*	-	-	-
	*	213		BLACK	-	51	84	37	26	12	*	-	-	*
	-	*		OTHER	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E BATON ROUGE	10467	6209	15.0	ALL	30	878	1832	1565	1235	540	116	*	-	9
	5907	2698		WHITE	-	192	539	794	774	330	61	*	-	6
	4348	3316		BLACK	30	675	1267	701	406	186	46	*	-	*
	212	195		OTHER	-	11	26	70	55	24	9	-	-	-
EAST CARROLL	*	162	17.2	ALL	*	39	64	29	21	5	*	-	-	-
	-	25		WHITE	-	5	8	6	*	-	*	-	-	-
	*	137		BLACK	*	34	56	23	17	5	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E FELICIANA	-	313	14.7	ALL	-	64	99	89	38	21	*	-	-	-
	-	172		WHITE	-	23	54	55	24	15	*	-	-	-
	-	139		BLACK	-	41	45	34	12	6	*	-	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
EVANGELINE	723	557	15.7	ALL	*	105	208	132	80	27	*	-	-	-
	415	365		WHITE	-	53	137	96	59	17	*	-	-	-
	300	190		BLACK	*	52	71	36	19	10	-	-	-	-
	8	*		OTHER	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
FRANKLIN	5	317	14.9	ALL	*	65	129	75	35	12	-	-	-	-
	5	173		WHITE	*	22	82	41	20	7	-	-	-	-
	-	144		BLACK	-	43	47	34	15	5	-	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2000													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
GRANT	-	265	14.2	ALL	*	44	97	70	34	12	7	-	-
	-	234		WHITE	*	38	82	66	31	10	6	-	-
	-	26		BLACK	-	6	13	*	*	*	-	-	-
	-	5		OTHER	-	-	*	*	*	-	*	-	-
IBERIA	1139	1261	17.2	ALL	5	216	418	318	197	90	15	*	-
	573	703		WHITE	-	97	205	196	134	62	7	*	-
	530	518		BLACK	5	116	200	106	57	28	6	-	-
	36	40		OTHER	-	*	13	16	6	-	*	-	-
IBERVILLE	418	510	15.3	ALL	*	93	173	127	75	31	8	-	-
	50	200		WHITE	*	19	63	64	39	11	*	-	-
	365	308		BLACK	*	74	110	62	35	20	5	-	-
	*	*		OTHER	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	-	-
JACKSON	-	195	12.7	ALL	-	33	67	56	32	6	-	-	*
	-	125		WHITE	-	18	40	40	23	*	-	-	-
	-	70		BLACK	-	15	27	16	9	*	-	-	*
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JEFFERSON	8135	6468	14.2	ALL	17	907	1735	1660	1371	666	108	*	-
	4988	3936		WHITE	5	392	899	1089	998	476	74	*	-
	2782	2197		BLACK	11	492	780	481	276	132	24	*	-
	365	335		OTHER	*	23	56	90	97	58	10	-	-
JEFF DAVIS	368	547	17.4	ALL	*	97	220	110	75	34	9	*	-
	287	427		WHITE	*	58	170	96	65	28	8	*	-
	75	114		BLACK	-	37	50	12	8	6	*	-	-
	6	6		OTHER	-	*	-	*	*	-	-	-	-
LAFAYETTE	5247	2834	14.9	ALL	9	367	783	720	642	267	42	*	-
	3588	1890		WHITE	*	179	448	521	498	207	32	*	-
	1566	887		BLACK	5	185	317	182	132	55	9	*	-
	93	57		OTHER	-	*	18	17	12	5	*	*	-
LAFOURCHE	1074	1242	13.8	ALL	5	191	391	321	236	83	15	-	-
	886	912		WHITE	*	105	280	251	201	63	10	-	-
	167	280		BLACK	*	79	92	57	28	18	*	-	-
	21	50		OTHER	-	7	19	13	7	*	*	-	-
LASALLE	*	179	12.5	ALL	-	32	63	37	41	5	*	-	-
	-	147		WHITE	-	26	51	33	34	*	-	-	-
	*	31		BLACK	-	6	12	*	7	*	*	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
LINCOLN	625	535	12.6	ALL	*	87	190	146	64	41	*	*	-
	307	267		WHITE	-	29	80	88	39	26	*	*	-
	313	263		BLACK	*	57	110	58	23	13	-	-	-
	5	5		OTHER	-	*	-	-	*	*	-	-	-
LIVINGSTON	*	1502	16.4	ALL	*	203	487	454	253	84	16	*	-
	*	1411		WHITE	*	188	455	434	241	74	16	*	-
	-	86		BLACK	*	14	30	19	11	10	-	-	-
	-	5		OTHER	-	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2000														
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years									
					LT	15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
MADISON	*	251	18.3	ALL	*	67	91	54	27	9	-	-	-	-
	-	65		WHITE	-	14	22	22	6	*	-	-	-	-
	*	186		BLACK	*	53	69	32	21	8	-	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOREHOUSE	438	479	15.4	ALL	5	108	191	106	48	20	*	-	-	-
	260	217		WHITE	-	35	81	61	33	7	-	-	-	-
	178	262		BLACK	5	73	110	45	15	13	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NATCHITOCHES	610	626	16.0	ALL	6	119	237	145	85	28	6	-	-	-
	283	298		WHITE	*	33	95	85	57	22	*	-	-	-
	316	324		BLACK	*	85	142	57	28	6	*	-	-	-
	11	*		OTHER	-	*	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
ORLEANS	8816	7577	15.6	ALL	37	1451	2401	1705	1219	633	126	5	-	-
	2318	1304		WHITE	*	46	184	318	455	249	49	*	-	-
	6269	6077		BLACK	34	1392	2187	1317	712	361	71	*	-	-
	229	196		OTHER	*	13	30	70	52	23	6	-	-	-
OUACHITA	3911	2368	16.1	ALL	12	366	790	572	432	168	28	-	-	-
	2180	1300		WHITE	*	142	372	375	277	119	13	-	-	-
	1702	1048		BLACK	10	222	415	194	145	47	15	-	-	-
	29	20		OTHER	-	*	*	*	10	*	-	-	-	-
PLAQUEMINES	*	382	14.3	ALL	*	57	128	90	77	26	*	-	-	-
	-	239		WHITE	-	29	76	60	55	17	*	-	-	-
	*	121		BLACK	*	26	46	27	13	7	*	-	-	-
	-	22		OTHER	-	*	6	*	9	*	-	-	-	-
POINTE COUPEE	-	360	15.8	ALL	*	61	140	75	55	24	*	-	-	-
	-	181		WHITE	-	15	60	49	40	15	*	-	-	-
	-	179		BLACK	*	46	80	26	15	9	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RAPIDES	3295	1985	15.7	ALL	*	358	688	492	295	118	29	*	-	-
	2161	1195		WHITE	-	166	369	344	213	83	20	-	-	-
	1083	760		BLACK	*	188	312	138	75	33	9	*	-	-
	51	30		OTHER	-	*	7	10	7	*	-	-	-	-
RED RIVER	*	139	14.4	ALL	*	23	56	41	13	*	*	-	-	-
	-	73		WHITE	-	10	29	22	10	*	-	-	-	-
	*	66		BLACK	*	13	27	19	*	*	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RICHLAND	8	345	16.4	ALL	*	65	118	104	36	18	*	-	-	-
	*	183		WHITE	-	24	61	68	20	9	*	-	-	-
	5	161		BLACK	*	41	57	36	15	9	-	-	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
SABINE	*	343	14.6	ALL	*	78	111	88	47	14	*	-	-	-
	*	245		WHITE	*	52	74	65	41	10	*	-	-	-
	*	69		BLACK	*	14	29	16	5	*	*	-	-	-
	-	29		OTHER	-	12	8	7	*	*	-	-	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2000													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years								
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
ST BERNARD	*	782	11.6	ALL	-	104	199	250	174	48	6	*	-
	*	672		WHITE	-	88	161	214	158	44	6	*	-
	-	90		BLACK	-	15	34	28	12	*	-	-	-
	-	20		OTHER	-	*	*	8	*	*	-	-	-
ST CHARLES	*	734	15.3	ALL	*	101	160	189	180	83	16	*	*
	-	497		WHITE	*	48	80	139	147	68	12	*	*
	*	231		BLACK	*	53	80	47	31	14	*	-	-
	-	6		OTHER	-	-	-	*	*	*	-	-	-
ST HELENA	-	126	12.0	ALL	*	16	53	28	20	7	-	-	-
	-	60		WHITE	-	*	25	17	9	5	-	-	-
	-	66		BLACK	*	12	28	11	11	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ST JAMES	*	374	17.6	ALL	*	63	124	91	64	28	*	-	-
	*	144		WHITE	-	14	37	48	33	12	-	-	-
	*	229		BLACK	*	48	87	43	31	16	*	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ST JOHN	437	727	16.9	ALL	*	119	222	190	128	56	8	-	*
	208	320		WHITE	-	28	84	104	69	31	*	-	-
	224	392		BLACK	*	88	137	83	51	25	*	-	*
	5	15		OTHER	-	*	*	*	8	-	-	-	-
ST LANDRY	1258	1393	15.9	ALL	7	277	491	308	215	79	16	-	-
	717	696		WHITE	*	116	221	178	123	47	9	-	-
	538	693		BLACK	5	161	268	129	92	32	6	-	-
	*	*		OTHER	-	-	*	*	-	-	*	-	-
ST MARTIN	5	795	16.4	ALL	-	151	242	195	143	55	9	-	-
	*	449		WHITE	-	64	127	133	87	32	6	-	-
	*	340		BLACK	-	84	115	61	54	23	*	-	-
	-	6		OTHER	-	*	-	*	*	-	-	-	-
ST MARY	504	836	15.6	ALL	*	148	308	199	106	59	12	-	-
	270	497		WHITE	*	66	174	144	74	33	5	-	-
	216	314		BLACK	*	79	127	48	27	25	5	-	-
	18	25		OTHER	-	*	7	7	5	*	*	-	-
ST TAMMANY	3617	2729	14.3	ALL	*	354	610	710	704	291	56	-	-
	2818	2284		WHITE	*	252	459	620	635	263	52	-	-
	740	390		BLACK	*	99	145	78	45	19	*	-	-
	59	55		OTHER	-	*	6	12	24	9	*	-	-
TANGIPAHOA	1493	1633	16.2	ALL	8	308	612	346	233	109	17	-	-
	872	980		WHITE	*	138	320	244	177	86	13	-	-
	614	640		BLACK	6	170	289	96	54	21	*	-	-
	7	13		OTHER	-	-	*	6	*	*	-	-	-
TERREBONNE	2401	1772	17.0	ALL	10	306	597	411	299	128	20	*	-
	1538	1246		WHITE	*	196	392	308	243	88	15	*	-
	664	363		BLACK	6	72	146	70	45	22	*	-	-
	199	163		OTHER	*	38	59	33	11	18	*	-	-



Live Births By Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 2000														
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate+	Race	Age in years									
					LT 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.	
UNION	5	332	14.6	ALL	9	54	112	101	42	13	*	-	-	-
	*	207		WHITE	-	22	71	75	30	9	-	-	-	-
	*	121		BLACK	9	32	41	22	12	*	*	-	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
VERMILION	74	815	15.1	ALL	*	139	251	197	141	63	20	-	-	-
	37	623		WHITE	-	101	188	163	107	47	17	-	-	-
	30	161		BLACK	*	34	56	28	24	12	*	-	-	-
	7	31		OTHER	-	*	7	6	10	*	-	-	-	-
VERNON	771	1008	19.2	ALL	*	139	415	270	140	39	*	*	-	-
	511	722		WHITE	-	104	300	180	105	30	*	*	-	-
	211	235		BLACK	*	34	101	70	21	7	*	-	-	-
	49	51		OTHER	-	*	14	20	14	*	-	-	-	-
WASHINGTON	6	654	14.9	ALL	*	132	251	139	75	43	10	*	-	-
	*	365		WHITE	*	61	139	89	48	20	5	*	-	-
	5	288		BLACK	*	71	112	49	27	23	5	-	-	-
				OTHER	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEBSTER	724	572	13.7	ALL	5	124	197	138	71	31	6	-	-	-
	359	344		WHITE	*	66	116	93	47	17	*	-	-	-
	362	225		BLACK	*	58	78	45	24	14	*	-	-	-
	*	*		OTHER	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W BATON ROUGE	*	316	14.6	ALL	*	38	105	72	67	27	*	-	-	-
	*	181		WHITE	-	19	52	45	46	16	*	-	-	-
	-	132		BLACK	*	17	52	27	21	11	*	-	-	-
	-	*		OTHER	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST CARROLL	*	141	11.5	ALL	-	27	55	39	14	5	*	-	-	-
	-	105		WHITE	-	22	39	30	10	*	-	-	-	-
	*	36		BLACK	-	5	16	9	*	*	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W FELICIANA	*	128	8.5	ALL	-	18	45	35	19	9	*	-	-	-
	-	68		WHITE	-	*	19	24	15	5	*	-	-	-
	*	60		BLACK	-	14	26	11	*	*	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WINN	*	206	12.2	ALL	*	43	71	59	20	6	*	-	-	-
	*	125		WHITE	-	19	41	43	15	*	*	-	-	-
	*	81		BLACK	*	24	30	16	5	*	*	-	-	-
	-	-		OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OUT OF STATE**	665	1095		ALL	*	115	289	312	224	114	34	6	-	-
	375	896		WHITE	-	85	223	261	190	103	28	6	-	-
	284	187		BLACK	*	29	62	46	32	11	6	-	-	-
	6	12		OTHER	-	*	*	5	*	-	-	-	-	-

+Rate per 1,000 population

*Cities included in Parish Totals

**Not included in state totals

***In cell refers to counts less than 5 but greater than 0.

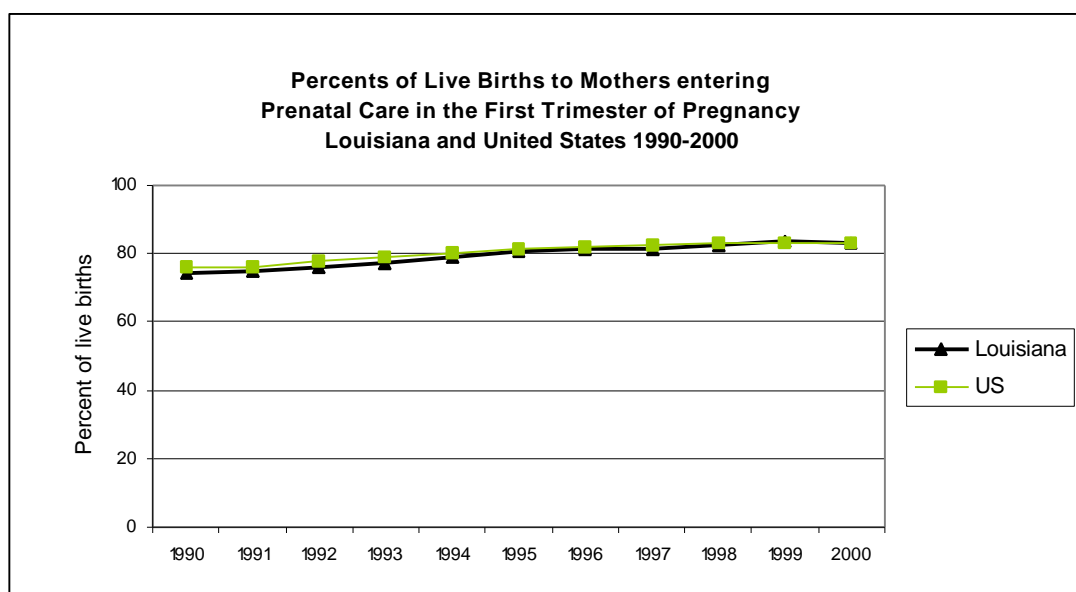
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is recognized as an important means of providing medical, nutritional, and educational interventions to reduce the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and to identify women at high risk for these outcomes. It has been estimated that for every dollar spent on prenatal care, up to \$3.38 can be saved in direct medical costs.² Beyond the positive effect on birth outcomes, prenatal care is a vital part of women's health care, as many women (particularly adolescents, minorities, and women of low socio-economic status) first enter the health care system during pregnancy.³

Prenatal care is most effective when it begins during the early stages of pregnancy. At the national level, the percentage of live births to mothers entering prenatal care in the first trimester has been steadily increasing. Louisiana, while consistently below the national percentage has shown similar improvement.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

In the following table, percentages of live births to mothers utilizing prenatal care are furnished to allow comparison of Louisiana with neighboring states. In the year 2000, 83.3% of Louisiana residents who gave birth entered prenatal care in the first trimester, as compared with 83.2% of mothers in the United States. Louisiana moved 8 points up from its 33rd ranking in 1999 to the 26th position nationwide. Among neighboring states, Louisiana ranked first for the highest percent of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, a spot up from its 1999-second ranking after Alabama.

² Institute of Medicine. (1994). "Prenatal Care and Low Birthweight: Effects on Health Care Expenditures." In: *Preventing Low Birthweight*. (pp. 212-37) Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

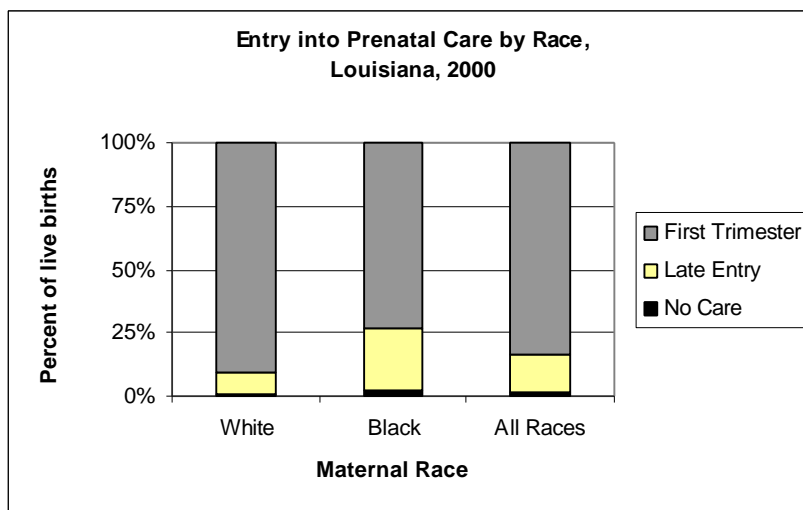
³ Fiscella, K. (1995). "Does Prenatal Care Improve Birth Outcomes? A Critical Review." *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 85, 468-79.



Percent of Live Births to Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 2000		
State	Percent of Mothers	National Ranking
Alabama	82.8	30
Arkansas	79.7	42
Louisiana	83.3	26
Mississippi	81.3	34
Texas	78.8	46
United States	83.2	-

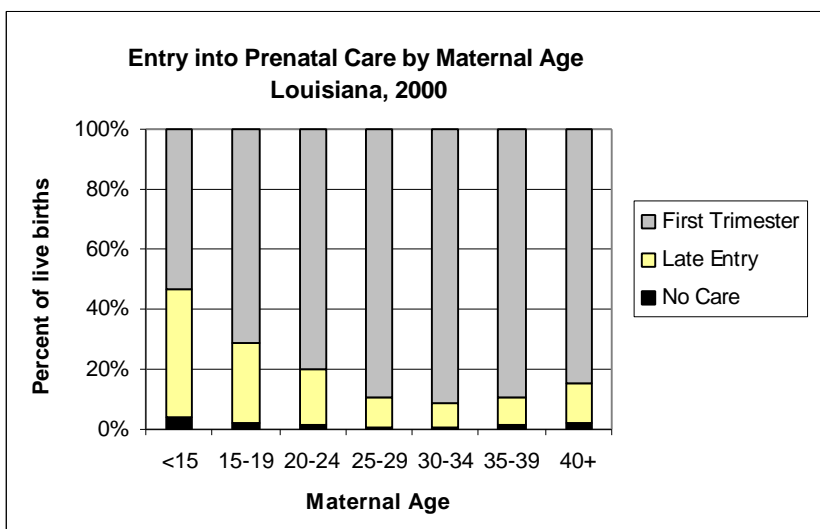
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Final Birth Data, 2000

Black women are less likely than white women to enter prenatal care within the first trimester of their pregnancies. Only 73.3% of black mothers had their first prenatal visit in the first trimester, compared with 90.2% of white mothers. Also, 2.4% of black mothers received no prenatal care, as compared with 0.5% of white mothers.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Only half (53.4%) of mothers under the age of 15 started prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, and 3.0% of this age group never received any prenatal care. However, entry into care improved with age before leveling off in the mid-thirties.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

In Louisiana, adequacy of prenatal care is measured by a modified Kessner index, which defines prenatal care as adequate if the first prenatal visit occurred in the first trimester of pregnancy and if the total number of visits was appropriate to the gestational age of the baby at birth. It should be noted, however, that these measures assess neither the quality nor the content of prenatal care and, therefore, are most likely overestimates of the adequacy of care. Of the 67, 843 Louisiana residents who gave birth in 2000, 77.9% received adequate care.

Percent of Mothers Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1995-2000						
Parish	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<i>State Total</i>	73.5	74.8	75.4	76.9	77.5	77.96
<i>Acadia</i>	50.3	57.7	59.6	69.7	71.6	66.81
<i>Allen</i>	63.3	70.4	67.2	74.9	77.3	79.19
<i>Ascension</i>	79.5	79.1	83.0	82.7	82.8	81.85
<i>Assumption</i>	75.5	78.2	82.7	80.9	83.1	76.33
<i>Avoyelles</i>	64.4	70.0	69.7	69.7	71.8	71.27
<i>Beauregard</i>	60.7	63.5	70.8	70.3	81.0	80.00
<i>Bienville</i>	61.5	57.2	64.5	69.0	61.9	74.07
<i>Bossier</i>	79.5	77.9	76.3	80.8	81.4	80.45
<i>Caddo</i>	71.0	69.5	68.0	72.9	72.0	71.09
<i>Calcasieu</i>	80.0	79.6	81.6	81.6	84.1	85.30
<i>Caldwell</i>	80.7	79.4	79.0	78.8	79.7	85.21
<i>Cameron</i>	88.6	84.3	84.0	83.3	84.0	84.75
<i>Catahoula</i>	74.3	65.7	73.3	68.3	68.1	72.41
<i>Claiborne</i>	67.4	63.4	61.0	58.0	61.7	62.13
<i>Concordia</i>	72.7	73.7	65.7	64.1	69.7	65.02
<i>DeSoto</i>	68.8	66.8	68.1	76.0	70.2	68.72
<i>East Baton Rouge</i>	78.3	75.7	75.4	75.3	74.7	76.91
<i>East Carroll</i>	55.9	69.6	60.3	58.3	52.4	61.25
<i>East Feliciana</i>	67.7	60.1	70.8	72.6	76.7	78.83
<i>Evangeline</i>	62.7	69.7	69.0	66.1	69.4	75.72
<i>Franklin</i>	74.6	65.4	70.3	66.5	71.9	67.73



<i>Percent of Mothers Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1995-2000</i>						
<i>Parish</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>
Grant	77.0	79.8	79.5	80.0	83.9	80.31
Iberia	66.9	61.2	61.1	57.5	62.6	65.20
Iberville	75.4	74.4	78.1	73.2	72.9	65.81
Jackson	57.8	59.1	57.8	58.3	65.6	74.60
Jefferson	81.6	61.1	83.6	82.2	81.7	78.93
Jefferson Davis	62.6	83.3	62.6	60.1	61.5	63.70
Lafayette	72.5	74.1	80.3	85.1	87.8	88.71
Lafourche	83.4	79.8	78.2	84.5	83.0	84.06
LaSalle	65.7	72.9	71.1	80.1	75.8	83.15
Lincoln	48.6	49.9	49.2	48.3	54.3	61.63
Livingston	79.7	83.9	85.2	84.5	87.5	84.64
Madison	56.8	64.4	55.5	59.4	67.5	64.26
Morehouse	50.0	50.6	49.8	49.2	53.8	75.05
Natchitoches	73.7	72.0	68.9	75.5	69.8	72.20
Orleans	65.8	71.4	74.7	76.1	76.6	76.22
Ouachita	78.3	78.0	77.1	79.8	78.1	81.69
Plaquemines	74.0	79.0	74.8	77.9	82.4	82.80
Pointe Coupee	76.5	76.5	75.9	75.5	76.8	74.72
Rapides	70.3	74.7	74.5	75.5	75.8	78.21
Red River	74.5	58.0	64.7	71.3	66.9	71.94
Richland	68.5	75.7	72.8	78.8	76.8	81.25
Sabine	72.9	69.8	73.1	76.8	76.3	71.30
St. Bernard	86.7	88.5	89.9	88.4	85.0	83.14
St. Charles	80.0	84.9	82.6	83.6	76.1	77.58
St. Helena	68.4	71.6	86.9	88.6	89.4	85.60
St. James	65.5	68.2	63.3	68.9	68.9	66.03
St. John	62.9	72.1	65.1	64.6	68.7	62.96
St. Landry	62.0	66.1	63.6	66.0	67.6	70.93
St. Martin	70.2	70.8	73.2	77.6	79.1	81.35
St. Mary	76.9	79.0	75.7	79.0	78.2	79.06
St. Tammany	87.3	86.0	85.8	85.7	84.2	85.27
Tangipahoa	78.8	79.8	87.5	90.9	91.8	89.66
Tensas	67.6	60.0	60.7	50.5	63.5	60.00
Terrebonne	75.9	76.1	73.4	79.8	78.5	79.91
Union	66.1	63.1	66.7	66.2	65.5	70.64
Vermilion	77.1	81.0	84.0	83.7	85.1	87.75
Vernon	76.8	76.9	77.7	77.1	81.3	83.68
Washington	65.6	78.4	74.1	76.3	77.4	75.50
Webster	72.6	76.9	68.9	69.2	72.4	79.47
West Baton Rouge	79.3	74.9	78.6	82.6	74.8	76.85
West Carroll	64.4	67.9	58.6	57.9	58.6	73.38
West Feliciana	75.8	63.3	71.3	84.8	78.6	78.74
Winn	51.4	64.0	57.4	63.6	73.7	69.61

*According to modified Kessner index

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Low Birthweight

A low birthweight infant is defined as an infant weighing less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth. Low birthweight is a major cause of infant mortality with more than three-quarters of infant deaths caused by babies being born too small or too early.⁴ Low birthweight may also contribute significantly to childhood handicap later in life. Low birthweight infants are more likely to have brain damage, lung and liver disease, subnormal growth, developmental problems, and other adverse health conditions. The effects of low birthweight can follow infants throughout life, as they are more likely to have mild learning disorders, attention disorders, and developmental impairments.⁵ Low birthweight infants are also more likely to require special education classes than their normal birthweight counterparts later in life.⁶

In the year 2000, 7,175 of the infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces). This represents 10.6% of the live births that year, as compared with 7.6% of the babies born in the United States who were low birthweight. Both Louisiana and the United States have seen an increase in the percentage of infants with low birthweight in recent years.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in the year 2000, Louisiana had the second highest percentage of low birthweight babies in the nation, outranked only by Mississippi.

<i>Percent of Live Births Less Than 2500 Grams Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 2000</i>		
<i>State</i>	<i>Percent of Live Births</i>	<i>National Ranking</i>
<i>Alabama</i>	9.7	3
<i>Arkansas</i>	8.6	7
<i>Louisiana</i>	10.3	2
<i>Mississippi</i>	10.7	1
<i>Texas</i>	7.4	27
<i>United States</i>	7.6	-

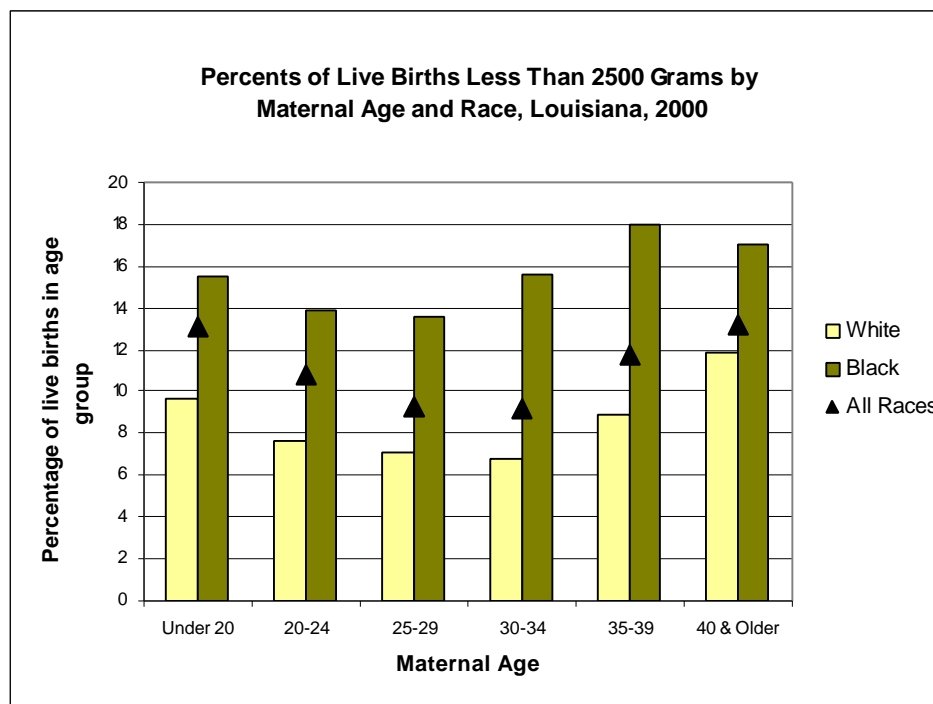
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Final Birth Data, 2000

Black women gave birth to infants of low birthweight twice as frequently as white women did, at 14.7% compared with 7.7% of live births. This discrepancy held true for all age groups. Examination of births by age groups found mothers over age 40 had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies (13.2% of live births), followed by mothers under age 20 (13.1%).

⁴ Paneth NS. (1995) "The Problem of Low Birth Weight." In *The Future of Children, Low Birth Weight* (19-34).

⁵ Institute of Medicine. (1985). "The Significance of Low Birthweight." In *Preventing Low Birthweight*. (21-45). Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

⁶ Hack M, Klein NK, Taylor HG. "Long-Term Developmental Outcomes of Low Birth Weight Infants." *The Future of Children, Low Birth Weight* 1995;5:19-34.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

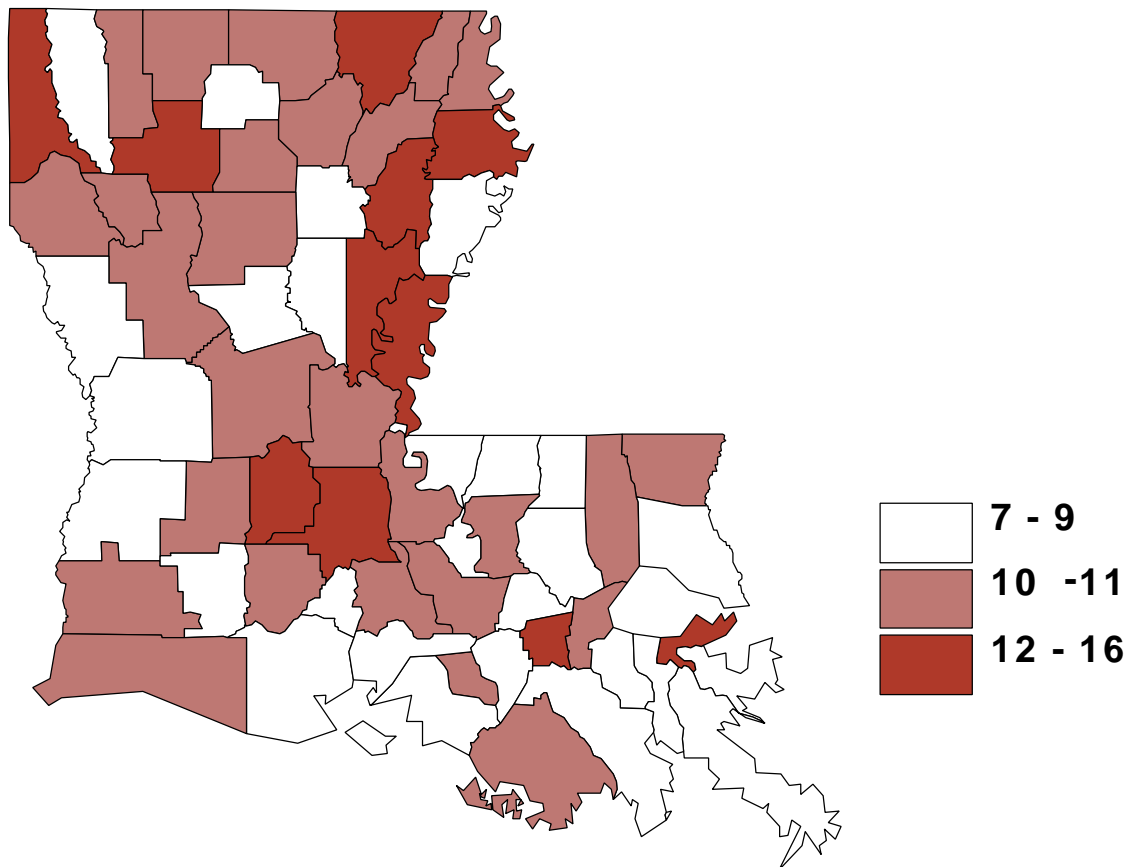
Infants weighing less than 1500 grams (3 pounds, 5 ounces) at birth are considered to be very low birthweight and are at much greater risk of mortality and long-term disability. The risk of early death for very low birthweight infants is about 65 times that of infants who weigh at least 1500 grams.⁷ In the year 2000, 2.1% of infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 1500 grams, as compared with 1.4% of infants born to United States residents. As with infants weighing less than 2500 grams, there were demographic differences in the mothers giving birth to very low birthweight infants. Black mothers gave birth to very low birthweight infants twice as frequently as white mothers did, at 3.4% compared with 1.4% of live births. Infants born to the youngest mothers were more frequently very low birthweight. Of all infants born to mothers under the age of 20 years, 3.1% were very low birthweight.

In the year 2000 Concordia parish had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies at 15.8% of live births, and Vernon parish had the lowest at 7.09% of live births. The map on the following page shows the percent of live births that are low birthweight babies in each parish.

⁷ Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1995." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*; vol 45 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1997.



***Percent Low Birthweight
(<5 pounds, 8 ounces)
Louisiana, 2000***

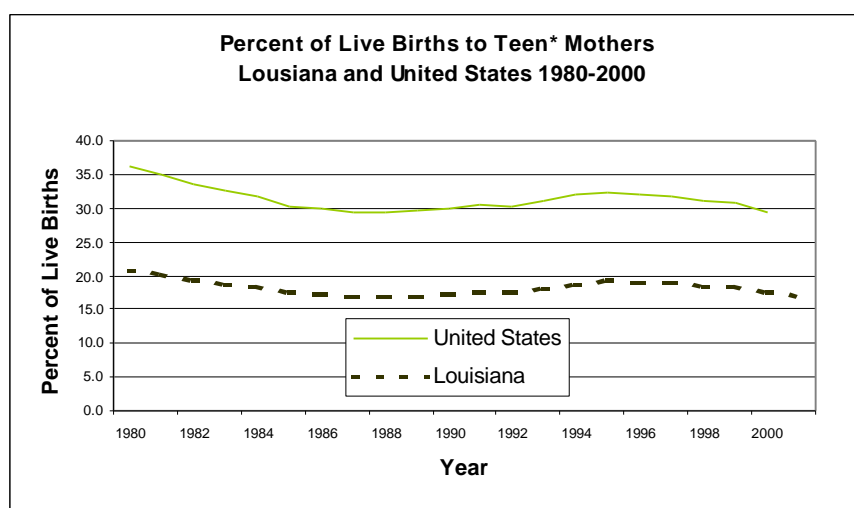


Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Teen Births

Despite an overall decrease in teen birth rates over the last two decades, teenage pregnancy continues to be a problem for the nation. Teen mothers are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care and are more likely to give birth to low birthweight infants.⁸ Their infants are more likely to be hospitalized and go on to have childhood health problems. National statistics report that most births to teens (78.9%) occur outside marriage⁹ and 25% of teenage mothers go on to have additional children within the next two years.¹⁰ These factors, combined with the fact that teenage mothers are less likely to finish high school, contribute to the high proportion of women living in poverty who first gave birth during adolescence. In 1993, of the 3.8 million mothers aged 15-44 who received welfare or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), 55% first became mothers as teenagers.¹¹ In fiscal year 1995, Louisiana spent over \$875 million on programs that support families begun by teens (in the form of AFDC, Food Stamps, WIC, and Medicaid). However, Louisiana spent less than 1% of this amount (\$875 million) on programs designed to prevent teenage pregnancy.¹²



*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics

As illustrated in the table above, the percentage of live births to teen mothers as decreased over the last twenty years. Percentage of births to teenagers is higher in the United States than in Louisiana. While

⁸ Lewis CT, Mathews TJ, Heuser RL. *Prenatal Care in the United States, 1980-94*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(54). 1996.

⁹ Ventura SJ, Curtin SC, Martin JA, Mathews TJ. "Variations in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-98." *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol 48 no 6. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2000.

¹⁰ The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. 1994.

¹¹ The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Issues in Brief*. February 1995.

¹² Kreutzer, Tracy A. *Expenditures and Investments: Adolescent Pregnancy in the South*. Volume II. Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality. Washington, DC. 1997.



both nationwide and in Louisiana an increase in teenage births was observed in the mid-nineties, the proportion of teenage births as a total of all births has been on a downward trend for the least five years.

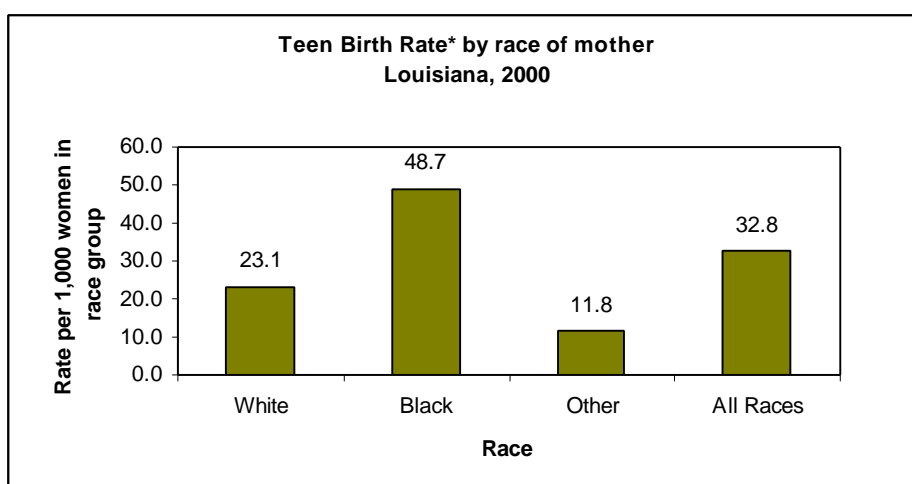
In the table below, teen birth rates for women aged 15-19 are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states in terms of births to teenagers. Louisiana consistently has ranked in the top ten states in terms of rate of live births to teens, and 2000 was no exception. Louisiana had the 9th highest rate of live births to teens in the nation.

Rate of Live Births to Teens* Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 2000		
State	Rate of Live Births	National Ranking
Alabama	62.9	7
Arkansas	68.5	4
Louisiana	62.1	9
Mississippi	72.0	1
Texas	69.2	2
United States	48.5	-

*Teen mothers are 15-19 years old at the time of birth

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Final Birth Data 2000

To make comparisons of births among teens in different race groups meaningful, teen birth rates have been calculated by relating the number of teen births in each race group to the total number of teen women in the same race group. This method of calculating teen birth rates controls for differences in the proportion of women in the race groupings and is the method used by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).¹³ In Louisiana, the birth rate for black teenagers (age 10-19) in 2000 was more than twice that of white teenagers (ages 10-19), at 48.7 compared with 23.1 births per 1,000 women in the respective age and race groups.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

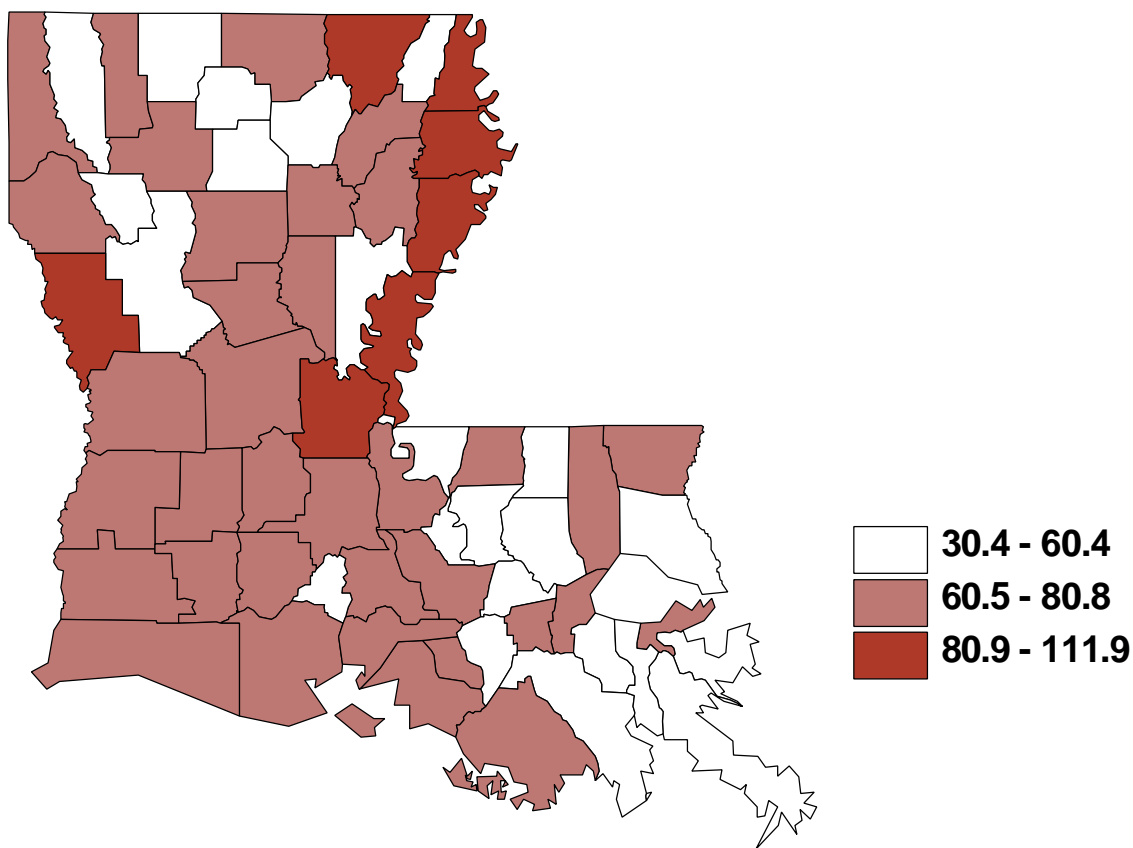
* Rate for mothers aged 10-19

¹³ Clarke SC and Ventura SL. *Birth and Fertility Rate for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52). 1994.



The following map shows teenage birth rates in Louisiana by parish.

Teen Birth Rate Per 1,000 Women Ages 15-19 Louisiana, 2000



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2000</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Louisiana	67,843	77.96	10.18	17.0
White	37,946	86.14	7.10	12.1
Black	28,335	67.06	14.55	23.9
Other	1,562	76.89	8.13	10.2
Acadia	945	66.81	9.61	19.8
White	702	75.57	7.62	15.8
Black	238	42.37	15.50	31.9
Other	5	-	7.14	0.0
Allen	327	79.19	10.51	19.0
White	258	82.61	8.63	17.1
Black	64	65.63	17.77	26.6
Other	5	80.00	11.90	20.0
Ascension	1,336	81.85	8.08	12.0
White	990	89.40	6.48	8.9
Black	339	59.64	12.84	21.2
Other	7	85.71	2.86	0.0
Assumption	342	76.33	9.08	17.5
White	188	86.49	6.20	13.8
Black	152	63.58	12.96	22.4
Other	*	100.00	-	0.0
Avoyelles	632	71.27	11.05	22.9
White	393	83.08	7.62	18.1
Black	227	50.68	17.30	31.3
Other	12	66.67	4.00	25.0
Beauregard	459	80.00	8.00	17.9
White	374	85.22	7.19	14.2
Black	82	56.25	12.97	35.4
Other	*	66.67	3.03	0.0
Bienville	220	74.07	12.30	21.4
White	107	82.69	9.09	18.7
Black	111	66.36	15.87	24.3
Other	*	50.00	-	0.0
Bossier	1,529	80.45	9.19	14.1
White	1,087	87.11	7.37	11.7
Black	410	62.44	14.14	20.7
Other	32	90.32	7.48	9.4
Caddo	3,839	71.09	11.89	18.8
White	1,608	87.99	7.54	10.9
Black	2,177	58.19	15.44	25.0
Other	54	88.89	8.75	3.7
Calcasieu	2,797	85.30	10.39	17.7
White	1,901	90.05	8.16	14.6
Black	870	75.20	15.64	25.1
Other	26	76.92	8.15	3.8



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2000</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Caldwell	143	85.21	7.39	17.5
White	118	88.03	5.82	13.6
Black	24	70.83	14.17	37.5
Other	*	100.00	-	0.0
Cameron	119	84.75	10.00	22.7
White	115	85.09	9.63	22.6
Black	*	75.00	18.52	25.0
Other	-	-	-	-
Catahoula	147	72.41	13.35	17.0
White	92	80.22	10.99	19.6
Black	54	58.49	17.47	13.0
Other	*	100.00	-	0.0
Claiborne	172	62.13	10.73	18.0
White	70	69.57	7.18	12.9
Black	102	57.00	13.19	21.6
Other	-	-	20.00	-
Concordia	287	65.02	15.78	26.5
White	138	81.62	13.69	18.8
Black	148	49.32	17.86	33.8
Other	*	100.00	-	0.0
DeSoto	414	68.72	10.75	19.3
White	199	85.28	7.25	14.1
Black	213	53.62	14.16	23.9
Other	*	-	20.00	50.0
E. Baton Rouge	6,209	76.91	10.55	14.6
White	2,698	90.21	6.29	7.1
Black	3,316	66.28	14.55	21.3
Other	195	73.71	8.03	5.6
East Carroll	162	61.25	11.37	24.7
White	25	76.00	6.71	20.0
Black	137	58.52	12.60	25.5
Other	-	-	-	-
E. Feliciana	313	78.83	9.23	20.4
White	172	91.72	7.32	13.4
Black	139	63.24	11.31	29.5
Other	*	50.00	-	0.0
Evangeline	557	75.72	13.03	19.2
White	365	81.67	9.42	14.5
Black	190	64.21	19.60	28.4
Other	*	100.00	12.50	0.0
Franklin	317	67.73	11.84	20.8
White	173	77.19	8.81	13.3
Black	144	56.34	15.69	29.9
Other	-	-	-	-



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 2000</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care+</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Grant	265	80.31	8.57	17.0
White	234	82.02	8.47	16.7
Black	26	65.38	9.71	23.1
Other	5	80.00	-	0.0
Iberia	1,261	65.20	9.34	17.5
White	703	78.43	6.68	13.8
Black	518	48.04	13.30	23.4
Other	40	52.50	7.10	7.5
Iberville	510	65.81	11.05	18.8
White	200	83.76	7.36	10.0
Black	308	54.28	13.93	24.7
Other	*	50.00	-	0.0
Jackson	195	74.60	10.05	16.9
White	125	80.65	8.10	14.4
Black	70	63.08	14.07	21.4
Other	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	6,468	78.93	8.98	14.3
White	3,936	83.68	6.75	10.1
Black	2,197	70.64	13.52	22.9
Other	335	77.58	8.31	7.2
Jefferson Davis	547	63.70	9.28	17.9
White	427	69.74	7.72	13.8
Black	114	40.54	14.66	32.5
Other	6	66.67	9.68	33.3
Lafayette	2,834	88.71	9.43	13.3
White	1,890	94.60	6.47	9.7
Black	887	76.61	15.86	21.4
Other	57	80.70	9.20	5.3
Lafourche	1,242	84.06	9.09	15.8
White	912	86.32	7.47	11.7
Black	280	76.73	15.40	29.3
Other	50	83.67	7.27	14.0
LaSalle	179	83.15	7.65	17.9
White	147	88.36	6.52	17.7
Black	31	58.06	15.32	19.4
Other	*	100.00	-	0.0
Lincoln	535	61.63	8.86	16.6
White	267	75.76	5.89	10.9
Black	263	47.31	11.79	22.4
Other	5	60.00	3.57	20.0
Livingston	1502	84.64	7.80	13.7
White	1411	85.73	7.24	13.4
Black	86	65.48	16.21	18.6
Other	5	100.00	3.70	20.0



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Madison	251	64.26	13.23	27.9
White	65	86.15	9.12	21.5
Black	186	56.52	14.74	30.1
Other	-	-	-	-
Morehouse	479	75.05	12.04	23.6
White	217	80.93	7.84	16.1
Black	262	70.16	15.38	29.8
Other	-	-	25.00	-
Natchitoches	626	72.20	10.52	20.0
White	298	84.08	8.32	11.7
Black	324	61.49	12.65	27.5
Other	*	75.00	13.64	25.0
Orleans	7,577	76.22	12.78	19.6
White	1,304	88.46	6.76	3.6
Black	6,077	73.62	14.31	23.5
Other	196	75.65	7.50	7.7
Ouachita	2,368	81.69	9.83	16.0
White	1,300	87.13	6.47	11.1
Black	1,048	74.71	13.91	22.1
Other	20	95.00	8.33	10.0
Plaquemines	382	82.80	9.28	15.2
White	239	88.61	7.80	12.1
Black	121	73.11	13.23	22.3
Other	22	72.73	5.38	9.1
Pointe Coupee	360	74.72	10.47	17.5
White	181	88.27	6.22	8.3
Black	179	61.02	15.22	26.8
Other	-	-	-	-
Rapides	1,985	78.21	10.73	18.2
White	1,195	87.48	7.41	13.9
Black	760	63.81	15.75	25.3
Other	30	73.33	8.73	13.3
Red River	139	71.94	9.73	18.0
White	73	83.56	7.46	13.7
Black	66	59.09	12.09	22.7
Other	-	-	-	-
Richland	345	81.25	11.45	19.7
White	183	86.19	6.29	13.1
Black	161	75.32	16.96	27.3
Other	*	100.00	-	0.0
Sabine	343	71.30	9.28	23.3
White	245	75.10	7.71	21.6
Black	69	58.82	14.60	21.7
Other	29	68.97	7.29	41.4



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St. Bernard	782	83.14	8.75	13.3
White	672	85.71	7.69	13.1
Black	90	65.12	19.01	16.7
Other	20	75.00	6.78	5.0
St. Charles	734	77.58	7.96	14.2
White	497	83.94	6.28	9.9
Black	231	63.32	11.51	23.8
Other	6	100.00	10.81	0.0
St. Helena	126	85.60	8.35	14.3
White	60	91.53	4.80	6.7
Black	66	80.30	11.07	21.2
Other	-	-	33.33	-
St. James	374	66.03	11.96	17.1
White	144	78.72	6.24	9.7
Black	229	57.85	15.49	21.4
Other	*	100.00	33.33	100.0
St. John	727	62.96	9.50	16.8
White	320	75.00	6.91	8.8
Black	392	53.03	12.04	23.2
Other	15	60.00	4.88	20.0
St. Landry	1,393	70.93	11.56	20.4
White	696	82.20	7.28	17.0
Black	693	59.47	15.86	24.0
Other	*	75.00	22.73	0.0
St. Martin	795	81.35	10.38	19.0
White	449	90.91	7.78	14.3
Black	340	68.84	14.22	24.7
Other	6	83.33	7.02	50.0
St. Mary	836	79.06	9.43	18.2
White	497	86.44	6.47	13.5
Black	314	67.31	14.30	26.1
Other	25	80.00	8.00	12.0
St. Tammany	2,729	85.27	7.50	13.1
White	2,284	88.24	6.55	11.2
Black	390	67.71	13.34	25.6
Other	55	87.04	6.12	5.5
Tangipahoa	1,633	89.66	10.28	19.4
White	980	92.67	6.94	14.3
Black	640	85.17	15.09	27.5
Other	13	84.62	15.52	0.0
Tensas	111	60.00	9.45	27.0
White	36	77.78	7.05	11.1
Black	74	52.05	10.61	33.8
Other	*	-	-	100.0



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Terrebonne	1,772	79.91	9.77	17.8
White	1,246	81.83	7.78	16.0
Black	363	75.00	16.16	21.5
Other	163	76.10	9.52	23.9
Union	332	70.64	11.11	19.0
White	207	81.28	8.81	10.6
Black	121	51.67	15.03	33.9
Other	*	100.00	23.08	0.0
Vermilion	815	87.75	8.20	17.5
White	623	90.11	6.55	16.2
Black	161	81.25	14.64	23.6
Other	31	74.19	5.41	12.9
Vernon	1,008	83.68	7.01	13.9
White	722	84.12	6.12	14.4
Black	235	82.68	10.11	14.9
Other	51	82.00	8.00	2.0
Washington	654	75.50	11.22	20.6
White	365	87.88	8.07	17.3
Black	288	59.43	16.07	25.0
Other	*	100.00	16.67	0.0
Webster	572	79.47	11.27	22.6
White	344	86.14	6.84	19.8
Black	225	69.51	17.35	27.1
Other	*	66.67	27.27	0.0
W. Baton Rouge	316	76.85	8.84	13.0
White	181	86.59	6.03	10.5
Black	132	63.57	12.54	15.2
Other	*	66.67	14.29	66.7
West Carroll	141	73.38	10.50	19.1
White	105	81.73	8.53	21.0
Black	36	48.57	16.76	13.9
Other	-	-	-	-
W. Feliciana	128	78.74	7.72	14.1
White	68	88.24	3.11	5.9
Black	60	67.80	12.67	23.3
Other	-	-	-	-
Winn	206	69.61	9.52	22.3
White	125	74.80	5.96	15.2
Black	81	61.73	15.05	33.3
Other	-	-	66.67	-

+According to modified Kessner index

*In cell refers to counts less than 5 and greater than 0.

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics